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REMARKS

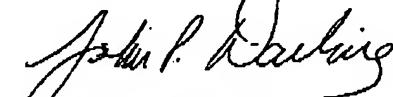
Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12-15 are pending. By this Amendment, the abstract is amended; claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 1 and 4 are amended. Prompt examination and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Species II. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12-15 as amended, read on the elected species. This election is made without traverse.

In response to the Examiner's comments regarding claim 2, the undersigned respectfully notes that the improper dependency of claim 2 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of that claim. Claim 1 has been amended to recite deposition of a Si layer inside the opening, which corresponds to Species II. It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1, as amended, reads on Species II and all remaining pending claims also read on Species II.

Respectfully submitted,

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